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STATISTICAL RELEASE

P6420

Food and beverages (Preliminary)

May 2026

**Embargoed until:
30 July 2026
14:30**

ENQUIRIES:
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FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
June 2026

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
27 August 2026

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Income at constant 2019 prices: results for May 2026

Table A – Key growth rates in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,5	5,7	4,2	1,9	-2,4	-0,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,0	2,5	-1,6	0,9	-3,6	3,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,8	-0,6	-0,7	0,2	-1,3	-0,6

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), food and beverages income decreased by 0,3% in May 2026 compared with May 2025.

Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income increased by 3,6% in May 2026 compared with April 2026. This followed month-on-month changes of -3,6% in April 2026 and 0,9% in March 2026.

Table B – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of enterprise

Type of enterprise	Mar – May 2025 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2026 (R million)	% change between Mar – May 2025 and Mar – May 2026	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	9 978,0	47,6	9 808,5	-1,7	-0,8
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	8 300,3	39,6	8 434,4	1,6	0,6
Catering services	2 700,0	12,9	2 684,7	-0,6	-0,1
Total	20 978,3	100,0	20 927,6	-0,2	-0,2

Food and beverages income decreased by 0,2% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the three months ended May 2025. The main contributor to this decrease was restaurants and coffee shops (-1,7% and contributing -0,8 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

Table C – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of enterprise

Type of enterprise	Dec 2025 – Feb 2026 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2026 (R million)	% change between Dec 2025 – Feb 2026 and Mar – May 2026	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	10 228,2	47,5	10 071,6	-1,5	-0,7
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	8 664,8	40,2	8 609,7	-0,6	-0,2
Catering services	2 649,3	12,3	2 724,7	2,8	0,3
Total	21 542,3	100,0	21 405,9	-0,6	-0,6

Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income decreased by 0,6% in the three months ended May 2026 compared with the previous three months. The main contributor to this decrease was restaurants and coffee shops (-1,5% and contributing -0,7 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

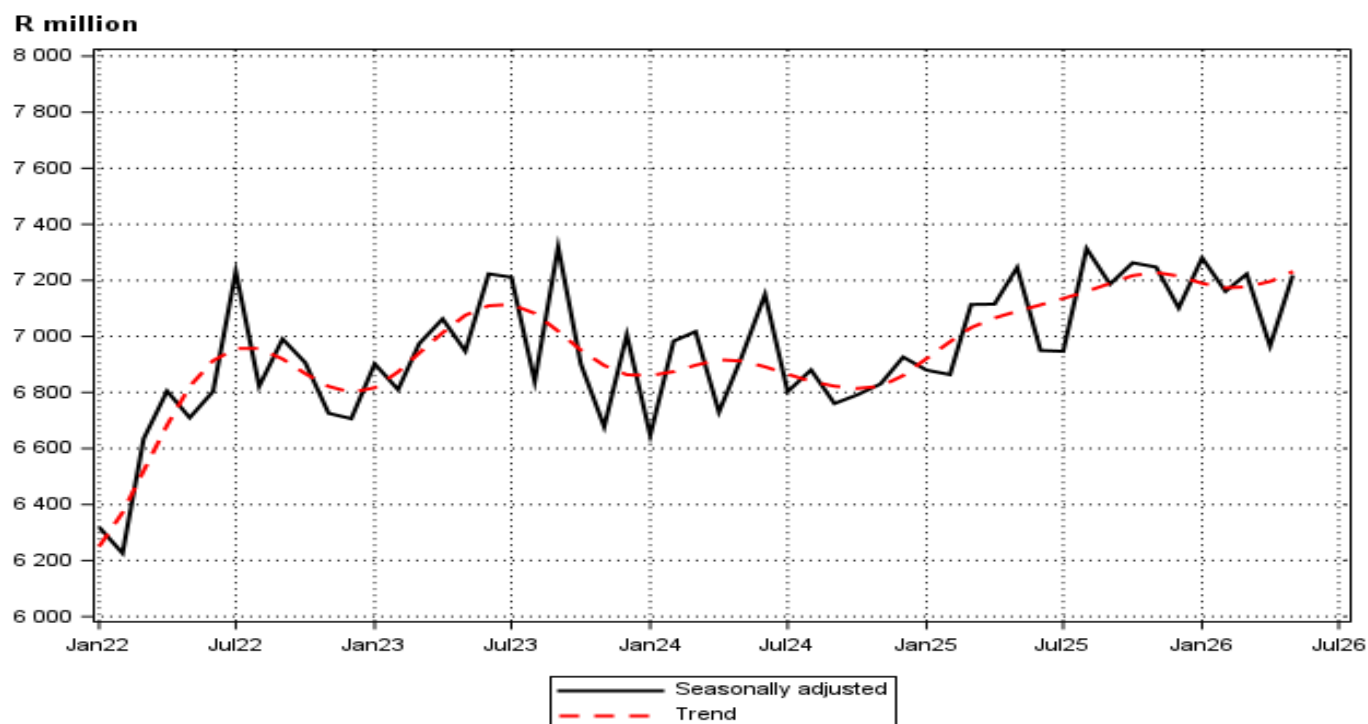
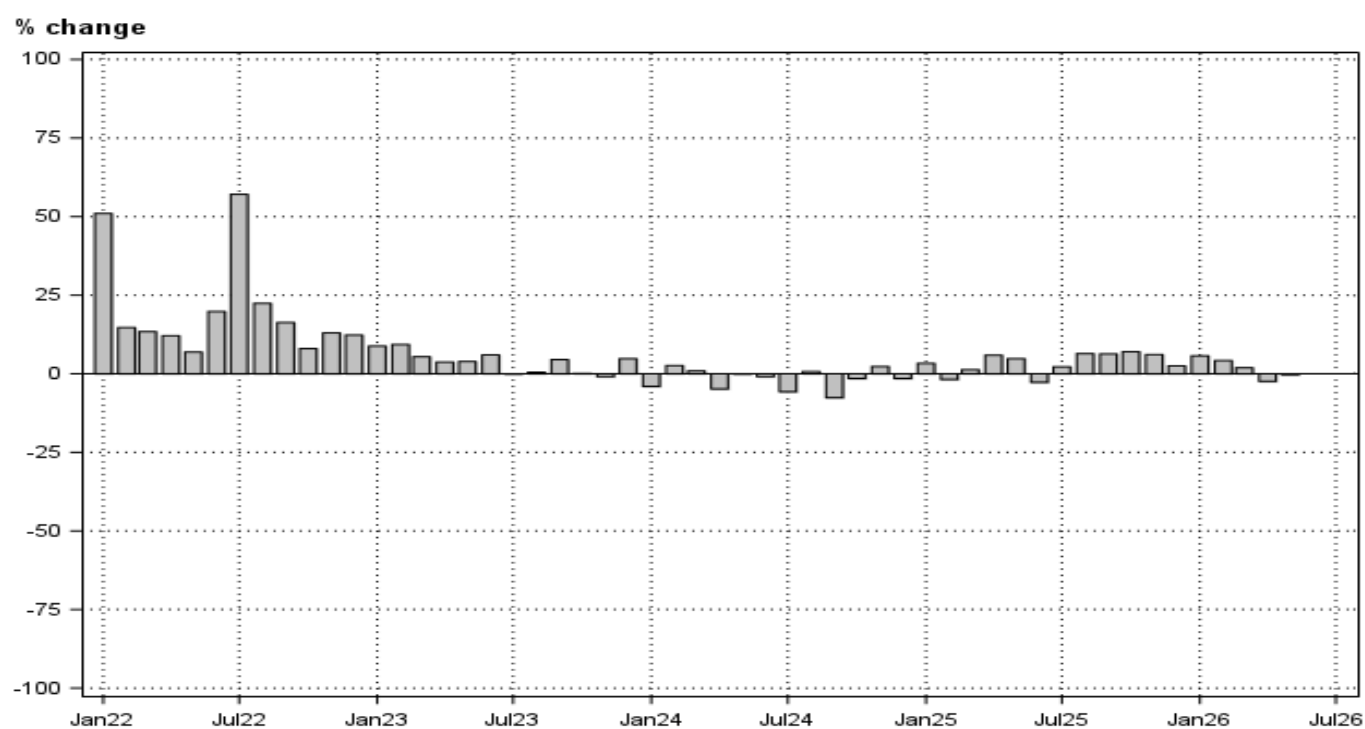
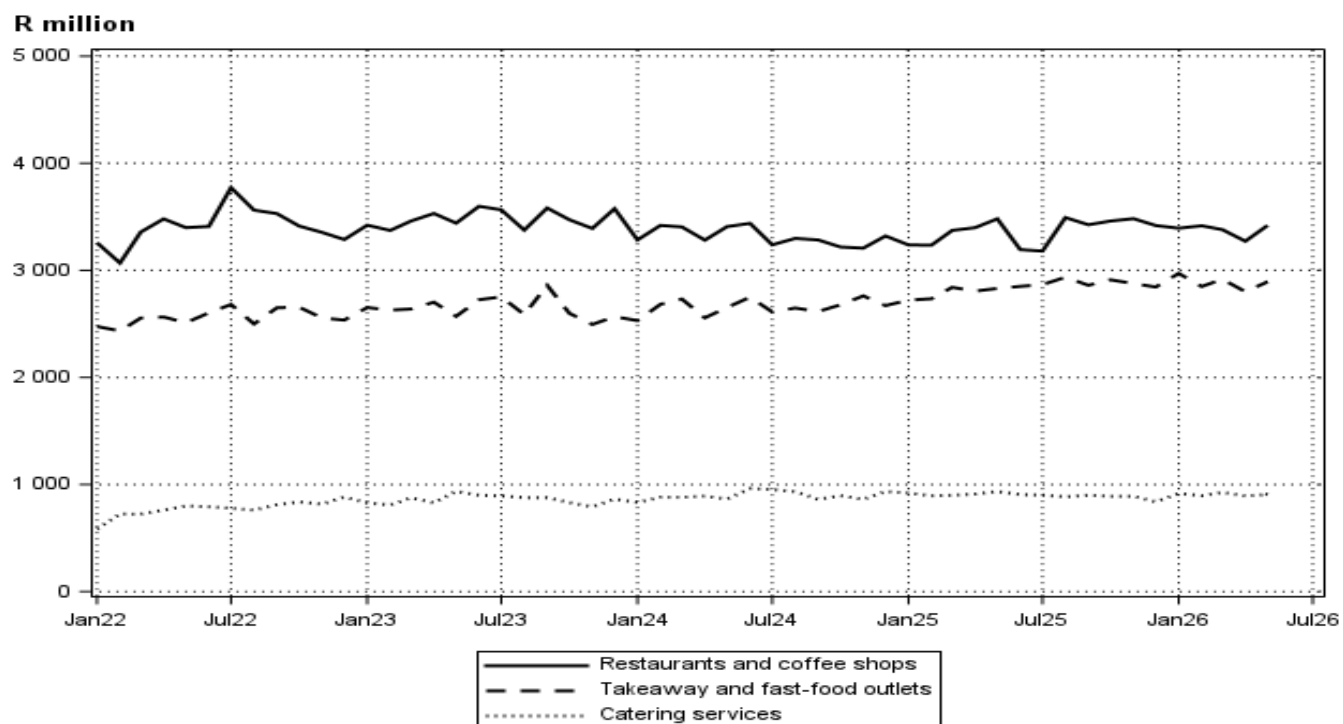
Figure 1 – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices**Figure 2 – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change**

Figure 3 – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of enterprise, seasonally adjusted

Income at current prices: results for May 2026

Table D – Key growth rates in food and beverages income at current prices

	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	7,3	10,6	9,2	8,3	4,0	6,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-2,7	3,6	-1,2	2,3	-2,4	3,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	2,1	0,5	0,3	1,8	1,0	2,2

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Table E – Food and beverages income at current prices for the latest three months by type of enterprise

Type of enterprise	Mar – May 2025 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2026 (R million)	% change between Mar – May 2025 and Mar – May 2026	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	13 098,6	47,3	13 681,1	4,4	2,1
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	10 966,7	39,6	11 922,6	8,7	3,4
Catering services	3 607,3	13,0	3 782,2	4,8	0,6
Total	27 672,6	100,0	29 385,9	6,2	6,2

Table F – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at current prices for the latest three months by type of enterprise

Type of enterprise	Dec 2025 – Feb 2026 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2026 (R million)	% change between Dec 2025 – Feb 2026 and Mar – May 2026	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	13 951,3	47,4	14 046,7	0,7	0,3
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	11 783,0	40,1	12 188,4	3,4	1,4
Catering services	3 671,1	12,5	3 824,0	4,2	0,5
Total	29 405,3	100,0	30 059,1	2,2	2,2


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Tables

Table 1 – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices (R million)

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	4 063,7	6 137,2	6 676,8	6 411,5	6 620,0	6 996,1
Feb	5 070,7	5 814,4	6 353,1	6 519,4	6 399,6	6 666,4
Mar	5 808,8	6 589,9	6 948,0	7 009,3	7 101,4	7 237,3
Apr	5 832,7	6 538,7	6 781,9	6 457,0	6 840,2	6 673,3
May	6 052,1	6 469,6	6 720,1	6 713,6	7 036,7	7 017,0
Jun	5 240,3	6 277,6	6 656,1	6 597,9	6 421,7	
Jul	4 489,5	7 051,7	7 042,6	6 637,8	6 785,5	
Aug	5 556,5	6 803,9	6 835,7	6 886,9	7 329,2	
Sep	5 845,0	6 797,4	7 104,8	6 563,5	6 976,0	
Oct	6 485,3	7 001,3	7 007,9	6 904,3	7 386,8	
Nov	6 308,7	7 126,8	7 063,9	7 223,4	7 663,5	
Dec	7 343,2	8 244,5	8 641,2	8 514,6	8 723,3	
Total	68 096,5	80 853,0	83 832,1	82 439,2	85 283,9	

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices

Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 year-to-date
Jan	51,0	8,8	-4,0	3,3	5,7	5,7
Feb	14,7	9,3	2,6	-1,8	4,2	4,9
Mar	13,4	5,4	0,9	1,3	1,9	3,9
Apr	12,1	3,7	-4,8	5,9	-2,4	2,3
May	6,9	3,9	-0,1	4,8	-0,3	1,7
Jun	19,8	6,0	-0,9	-2,7		
Jul	57,1	-0,1	-5,7	2,2		
Aug	22,4	0,5	0,7	6,4		
Sep	16,3	4,5	-7,6	6,3		
Oct	8,0	0,1	-1,5	7,0		
Nov	13,0	-0,9	2,3	6,1		
Dec	12,3	4,8	-1,5	2,5		
Total	18,7	3,7	-1,7	3,5		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	6 902,1	6 647,1	6 879,6	7 280,3	2,9	-5,1	-0,7	2,5
Feb	6 810,1	6 983,2	6 863,6	7 160,7	-1,3	5,1	-0,2	-1,6
Mar	6 974,3	7 017,2	7 113,7	7 222,4	2,4	0,5	3,6	0,9
Apr	7 062,4	6 729,9	7 115,1	6 965,5	1,3	-4,1	0,0	-3,6
May	6 947,5	6 926,2	7 245,8	7 218,0	-1,6	2,9	1,8	3,6
Jun	7 223,0	7 149,5	6 949,7		4,0	3,2	-4,1	
Jul	7 211,2	6 802,9	6 946,7		-0,2	-4,8	0,0	
Aug	6 839,6	6 880,2	7 313,4		-5,2	1,1	5,3	
Sep	7 319,0	6 760,3	7 186,3		7,0	-1,7	-1,7	
Oct	6 902,1	6 791,1	7 262,6		-5,7	0,5	1,1	
Nov	6 677,5	6 830,1	7 247,5		-3,3	0,6	-0,2	
Dec	7 005,6	6 926,2	7 101,3		4,9	1,4	-2,0	

Table 4 – Food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of enterprise (R million)

		Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	3 469,3	2 627,2	2 527,1	2 661,9	2 493,5	2 583,5
	Bar sales	820,3	603,4	642,9	678,6	577,2	590,8
	Other income	98,1	81,2	71,9	80,6	77,0	65,4
	Total	4 387,7	3 311,8	3 241,9	3 421,1	3 147,7	3 239,7
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	3 482,4	2 810,3	2 533,1	2 852,3	2 683,0	2 874,7
	Bar sales	3,9	3,0	2,5	2,9	3,0	2,7
	Other income	6,1	6,5	5,2	5,2	5,3	5,3
	Total	3 492,4	2 819,8	2 540,8	2 860,4	2 691,3	2 882,7
Catering services	Food sales	659,9	676,7	692,8	745,6	651,4	696,5
	Bar sales	118,9	124,0	122,7	133,5	115,0	124,0
	Other income	64,4	63,8	68,2	76,7	67,9	74,1
	Total	843,2	864,5	883,7	955,8	834,3	894,6
Total industry	Food sales	7 611,6	6 114,2	5 753,0	6 259,8	5 827,9	6 154,7
	Bar sales	943,1	730,4	768,1	815,0	695,2	717,5
	Other income	168,6	151,5	145,3	162,5	150,2	144,8
	Total	8 723,3	6 996,1	6 666,4	7 237,3	6 673,3	7 017,0

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of enterprise

		Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	9,0	9,2	9,0	4,7	-0,3	2,5
	Bar sales	-16,8	-14,7	-7,7	-13,3	-19,0	-16,5
	Other income	-0,8	51,8	15,8	22,1	-0,6	-4,0
	Total	2,8	4,6	5,4	0,9	-4,3	-1,7
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	6,4	9,1	4,1	2,8	-0,2	2,3
	Bar sales	8,3	-6,3	-10,7	-9,4	-3,2	-10,0
	Other income	0,0	3,2	-5,5	-5,5	-8,6	-3,6
	Total	6,4	9,1	4,1	2,8	-0,2	2,2
Catering services	Food sales	-0,2	4,8	0,4	3,2	2,1	1,8
	Bar sales	-48,6	-21,6	-1,4	1,6	-25,3	-25,0
	Other income	-8,4	-1,7	1,2	6,2	10,9	3,8
	Total	-12,4	-0,5	0,2	3,2	-2,2	-2,9
Total industry	Food sales	6,9	8,7	5,7	3,6	0,0	2,3
	Bar sales	-22,8	-15,9	-6,8	-11,2	-20,0	-18,1
	Other income	-3,8	21,5	7,6	13,1	3,9	-0,1
	Total	2,5	5,7	4,2	1,9	-2,4	-0,3

Table 6 – Contribution of each type of enterprise to the year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices (percentage points)

		Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	3,3	3,3	3,3	1,7	-0,1	0,9
	Bar sales	-1,9	-1,6	-0,8	-1,5	-2,0	-1,7
	Other income	0,0	0,4	0,2	0,2	0,0	0,0
	Total	1,4	2,2	2,6	0,4	-2,1	-0,8
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	2,5	3,6	1,6	1,1	-0,1	0,9
	Bar sales	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Other income	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Total	2,5	3,6	1,6	1,1	-0,1	0,9
Catering services	Food sales	0,0	0,5	0,0	0,3	0,2	0,2
	Bar sales	-1,3	-0,5	0,0	0,0	-0,6	-0,6
	Other income	-0,1	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0
	Total	-1,4	-0,1	0,0	0,4	-0,3	-0,4
Total industry	Food sales	5,8	7,4	4,9	3,1	0,0	2,0
	Bar sales	-3,3	-2,1	-0,9	-1,4	-2,5	-2,2
	Other income	-0,1	0,4	0,2	0,3	0,1	0,0
	Total	2,5	5,7	4,2	1,9	-2,4	-0,3

Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at constant 2019 prices by type of enterprise (R million)

		Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Month-on-month % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	2 694,9	2 705,5	2 652,3	2 594,9	2 728,7	5,2
	Bar sales	612,4	635,3	651,3	602,3	619,0	2,8
	Other income	86,1	75,5	76,6	74,8	71,8	-4,0
	Total	3 393,4	3 416,3	3 380,1	3 272,0	3 419,5	4,5
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	2 961,8	2 841,0	2 908,6	2 792,1	2 884,3	3,3
	Bar sales	3,0	2,8	2,9	3,1	2,8	-9,7
	Other income	6,5	5,2	5,2	5,3	5,3	0,0
	Total	2 971,4	2 849,0	2 916,7	2 800,5	2 892,5	3,3
Catering services	Food sales	719,0	698,0	720,5	704,9	707,1	0,3
	Bar sales	128,4	128,0	130,8	115,8	126,6	9,3
	Other income	68,1	69,4	74,4	72,4	72,3	-0,1
	Total	915,5	895,4	925,6	893,1	906,0	1,4
Total industry	Food sales	6 375,8	6 244,5	6 281,3	6 091,9	6 320,2	3,7
	Bar sales	743,8	766,1	785,0	721,1	748,4	3,8
	Other income	160,7	150,1	156,1	152,5	149,4	-2,0
	Total	7 280,3	7 160,7	7 222,4	6 965,5	7 218,0	3,6

Table 8 – Food and beverages income at current prices (R million)

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	4 194,4	6 700,7	7 813,9	8 029,8	8 649,0	9 561,6
Feb	5 253,5	6 379,2	7 466,1	8 175,0	8 375,2	9 147,1
Mar	6 039,3	7 256,0	8 211,4	8 798,3	9 328,8	10 100,5
Apr	6 114,1	7 223,3	8 027,0	8 138,8	9 020,5	9 377,2
May	6 366,8	7 216,4	8 059,2	8 532,0	9 323,3	9 908,2
Jun	5 528,8	7 080,8	8 029,7	8 391,4	8 555,5	
Jul	4 762,9	7 984,1	8 521,6	8 475,1	9 043,1	
Aug	5 926,2	7 757,7	8 341,5	8 814,2	9 826,9	
Sep	6 239,6	7 750,3	8 698,7	8 409,9	9 382,6	
Oct	6 979,9	8 041,3	8 612,0	8 887,4	9 972,1	
Nov	6 819,2	8 236,5	8 741,0	9 386,4	10 399,9	
Dec	7 954,4	9 600,7	10 701,1	11 080,8	11 888,4	
Total	72 179,1	91 227,0	101 223,2	105 119,1	113 765,3	

Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at current prices

Month	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 year-to-date
Jan	59,8	16,6	2,8	7,7	10,6	10,6
Feb	21,4	17,0	9,5	2,4	9,2	9,9
Mar	20,1	13,2	7,1	6,0	8,3	9,3
Apr	18,1	11,1	1,4	10,8	4,0	8,0
May	13,3	11,7	5,9	9,3	6,3	7,6
Jun	28,1	13,4	4,5	2,0		
Jul	67,6	6,7	-0,5	6,7		
Aug	30,9	7,5	5,7	11,5		
Sep	24,2	12,2	-3,3	11,6		
Oct	15,2	7,1	3,2	12,2		
Nov	20,8	6,1	7,4	10,8		
Dec	20,7	11,5	3,5	7,3		
Total	26,4	11,0	3,8	8,2		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	8 089,3	8 334,9	8 997,6	9 957,8	4,3	-3,3	0,5	3,6
Feb	8 000,6	8 760,1	8 991,0	9 837,6	-1,1	5,1	-0,1	-1,2
Mar	8 289,1	8 719,5	9 396,5	10 064,0	3,6	-0,5	4,5	2,3
Apr	8 303,6	8 577,1	9 347,0	9 826,2	0,2	-1,6	-0,5	-2,4
May	8 325,5	8 790,3	9 581,5	10 168,9	0,3	2,5	2,5	3,5
Jun	8 686,0	9 065,4	9 235,1		4,3	3,1	-3,6	
Jul	8 752,1	8 710,2	9 280,3		0,8	-3,9	0,5	
Aug	8 393,2	8 855,0	9 862,2		-4,1	1,7	6,3	
Sep	8 886,1	8 587,7	9 581,7		5,9	-3,0	-2,8	
Oct	8 525,2	8 782,0	9 846,5		-4,1	2,3	2,8	
Nov	8 302,1	8 917,3	9 877,9		-2,6	1,5	0,3	
Dec	8 621,0	8 956,5	9 609,9		3,8	0,4	-2,7	

Table 11 – Food and beverages income at current prices by type of enterprise (R million)

		Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	4 764,5	3 620,1	3 495,8	3 725,8	3 506,6	3 660,9
	Bar sales	1 089,9	798,7	858,3	910,2	775,7	801,4
	Other income	127,9	106,5	94,3	105,8	105,3	89,4
	Total	5 982,3	4 525,3	4 448,4	4 741,8	4 387,6	4 551,7
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	4 731,8	3 829,1	3 463,5	4 009,3	3 802,0	4 077,4
	Bar sales	5,6	4,4	3,6	4,2	4,4	4,0
	Other income	8,0	8,5	6,8	6,9	7,2	7,2
	Total	4 745,4	3 842,0	3 473,9	4 020,4	3 813,6	4 088,6
Catering services	Food sales	901,9	928,6	954,2	1 038,0	912,3	981,6
	Bar sales	171,5	179,1	178,0	195,6	168,8	182,4
	Other income	87,3	86,6	92,6	104,7	94,9	103,9
	Total	1 160,7	1 194,3	1 224,8	1 338,3	1 176,0	1 267,9
Total industry	Food sales	10 398,2	8 377,8	7 913,5	8 773,1	8 220,9	8 719,9
	Bar sales	1 267,0	982,2	1 039,9	1 110,0	948,9	987,8
	Other income	223,2	201,6	193,7	217,4	207,4	200,5
	Total	11 888,4	9 561,6	9 147,1	10 100,5	9 377,2	9 908,2

Table 12 – Year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at current prices by type of enterprise

		Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	14,5	14,6	14,7	11,1	6,1	9,5
	Bar sales	-12,9	-11,3	-3,4	-8,8	-15,0	-12,0
	Other income	-0,5	53,2	16,9	23,3	4,5	0,9
	Total	8,0	9,6	10,7	6,8	1,6	4,8
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	10,6	13,4	8,7	9,9	7,1	9,2
	Bar sales	21,7	7,3	-5,3	-6,7	0,0	-4,8
	Other income	1,3	3,7	-5,6	-4,2	-5,3	0,0
	Total	10,6	13,4	8,7	9,8	7,1	9,2
Catering services	Food sales	4,4	9,8	5,3	9,0	8,2	8,2
	Bar sales	-41,6	-10,8	6,9	6,0	-22,0	-21,7
	Other income	-4,4	2,5	5,7	11,3	16,3	8,5
	Total	-7,1	5,6	5,5	8,8	3,1	2,6
Total industry	Food sales	11,8	13,5	10,8	10,3	6,8	9,2
	Bar sales	-18,2	-11,1	-1,8	-6,5	-16,3	-13,9
	Other income	-2,0	24,3	10,4	16,2	9,2	4,6
	Total	7,3	10,6	9,2	8,3	4,0	6,3

Table 13 – Contribution of each type of enterprise to the year-on-year percentage change in food and beverages income at current prices (percentage points)

		Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	5,4	5,3	5,3	4,0	2,2	3,4
	Bar sales	-1,5	-1,2	-0,4	-0,9	-1,5	-1,2
	Other income	0,0	0,4	0,2	0,2	0,0	0,0
	Total	4,0	4,6	5,1	3,3	0,8	2,3
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	4,1	5,2	3,3	3,9	2,8	3,7
	Bar sales	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Other income	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Total	4,1	5,2	3,3	3,9	2,8	3,7
Catering services	Food sales	0,3	1,0	0,6	0,9	0,8	0,8
	Bar sales	-1,1	-0,3	0,1	0,1	-0,5	-0,5
	Other income	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
	Total	-0,8	0,7	0,8	1,2	0,4	0,3
Total industry	Food sales	9,9	11,5	9,2	8,8	5,8	7,9
	Bar sales	-2,5	-1,4	-0,2	-0,8	-2,0	-1,7
	Other income	0,0	0,5	0,2	0,3	0,2	0,1
	Total	7,3	10,6	9,2	8,3	4,0	6,3

Table 14 – Seasonally adjusted food and beverages income at current prices by type of enterprise (R million)

		Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Month-on-month % change
Restaurants and coffee shops	Food sales	3 706,9	3 731,1	3 717,4	3 647,7	3 848,8	5,5
	Bar sales	814,6	844,3	899,9	798,6	835,3	4,6
	Other income	112,8	98,8	100,5	101,0	97,3	-3,7
	Total	4 634,3	4 674,2	4 717,8	4 547,4	4 781,5	5,1
Takeaway and fast-food outlets	Food sales	4 036,8	3 907,3	4 038,5	4 013,9	4 100,1	2,1
	Bar sales	4,5	4,0	4,2	4,4	4,2	-4,5
	Other income	8,2	7,7	7,9	7,5	7,7	2,7
	Total	4 049,5	3 919,0	4 050,6	4 025,8	4 112,0	2,1
Catering services	Food sales	994,2	962,9	1 003,5	982,0	991,5	1,0
	Bar sales	186,5	186,1	190,9	171,3	182,5	6,5
	Other income	93,3	95,4	101,2	99,8	101,4	1,6
	Total	1 274,0	1 244,5	1 295,6	1 253,1	1 275,3	1,8
Total industry	Food sales	8 737,9	8 601,3	8 759,3	8 643,6	8 940,4	3,4
	Bar sales	1 005,6	1 034,5	1 095,0	974,3	1 022,0	4,9
	Other income	214,3	201,8	209,7	208,3	206,5	-0,9
	Total	9 957,8	9 837,6	10 064,0	9 826,2	10 168,9	3,5

Explanatory notes

Introduction	The results presented in this publication are derived from the monthly survey of the food and beverages industry. This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2025 statistical business register (SBR) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT).
Purpose of the survey	The food and beverages survey is a monthly survey covering a sample of public and private enterprises involved in the preparation of meals and drinks for immediate consumption in South Africa. The purpose of this survey is to monitor trends in the food and beverages industry. The results of the food and beverages survey are used to compile estimates of the tourism satellite accounts (TSA) and the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used to develop and monitor government policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.
Scope of the survey	This survey covers the following tax registered private and public enterprises, that are mainly engaged in providing food and beverages for immediate consumption: • restaurants and coffee shops; • takeaway and fast-food outlets; and • catering services.
Classification by industry	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to an industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at five-digit SIC level.
Collection rate	The preliminary collection rate for the survey on food and beverages for May 2026 was 81,1%. The revised collection rate for April 2026 was 84,0%.
Statistical unit	The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is an enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its income activities. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
Revised figures	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. The reasons for routine revisions are outlined in the following schedule. Any unscheduled revisions will be promptly indicated in relevant tables to maintain transparency and accuracy. It is important to note that seasonally adjusted figures are revised monthly.

Statistical release	Reason for revision	Period subject to revision
May-26	Additional information from respondents	Apr-26
Jun-26	Additional information from respondents	May-26
Jul-26	Additional information from respondents	Jun-26
Aug-26	Additional information from respondents	Jul-26
Sep-26	Additional information from respondents	Aug-26
Oct-26	Additional information from respondents	Sep-26
Nov-26	Additional information from respondents	Oct-26
Dec-26	Additional information from respondents	Nov-26
Jan-27	Additional information from respondents New base year for constant prices	Jan-08 - Dec-26
Feb-27	Additional information from respondents	Jan-27
Mar-27	Additional information from respondents	Feb-27
Apr-27	Additional information from respondents	Mar-27
New base year in 2026/27 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals		

Rounding-off of figures	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
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Historical data	Historical food and beverages data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: Click to download historical data.
Past publications	Past food and beverages releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: Click to download past releases.

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design	The survey was conducted by email and telephone.
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The 2025 sample of 800 enterprises was drawn from a sampling frame of 5 178 enterprises using stratified simple random sampling. The enterprises were first stratified at five-digit level according to the SIC and then by size of enterprises. All large and medium enterprises are completely enumerated. Turnover was used as the measure of size for stratification.

Size groups	The enterprises are divided into four size groups according to turnover. All large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size groups three and four (small and very small) enterprises. The total income of the large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two) is added to the weighted totals of size groups three and four to reflect the total income.
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Measure of size groups (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limit	Upper limit
Very small	4	3 635 040	25 500 000
Small	3	25 500 001	30 000 000
Medium	2	30 000 001	65 000 000
Large	1	65 000 001	

Sample weighting	For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-collection in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form subgroup estimates. These procedures are in line with international best practice.
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Seasonal adjustment	Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for food and beverages income is described in more detail on the Stats SA website at: Click to download seasonal adjustment food and beverages April 2022.
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Trend cycle	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
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Reliability of estimates	Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the food and beverages industry in South Africa.
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Relative standard error	One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.
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Estimates of total food and beverages income within 95% confidence limits – May 2026

	Lower limit (R million)	Income (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Total income	8 952,1	9 908,2	10 864,3	4,9

Non-sampling errors Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Non-sampling errors occur in both sample surveys and censuses.

Constant prices From January 2008 to December 2024, food and beverages income at constant prices by type of enterprise and by type of income was estimated by deflating income at current prices using the relevant components of the consumer price index for restaurants.

From January 2025, food and beverages income by type of income and establishment, at constant prices, is calculated by deflating the estimated income at current prices using the corresponding deflator. Total food and beverages income at constant prices is then derived by aggregating the deflated income estimates across all establishment types.

Year-on-year percentage change The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

Contribution (percentage points) The contribution (percentage points) to the annual percentage change for any given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of enterprise by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of enterprise to total income in the corresponding period of the previous year. The same result is given by $T \times [\Delta C / \Delta T]$, where T = change in the total, ΔC = change in the component (in rands), and ΔT = change in the total (in rands).

Glossary

Enterprise A legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities.

Industry It is a group of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts* (SNA) in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.

Income from food sales Refers to income from the sale of meals and non-alcoholic drinks.

Income from bar sales Refers to income from liquor sales.

Other income Includes all income not earned from bar or food sales.

Symbols and abbreviations

GDP	Gross domestic product
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TSA	Tourism satellite accounts
VAT	Value-added tax
*	Revised figures

Restaurants and coffee shops Enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for immediate consumption and with provided seating.

Takeaway and fast-food outlets

Enterprises involved in the sale and provision of meals and drinks, ordered from a menu, prepared on the premises for takeaway purposes in a packaged format, at a stand or in a location, with or without provided seating.

Catering services

Enterprises involved in the sale and supply of meals and drinks prepared on the premises on a contract basis and brought to other premises chosen by the person ordering them, to be served for immediate consumption to guests or customers. Catering services also include bars, taverns, other drinking places, ice-cream parlours, etc.

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